

Senate Bill No. 1802

CHAPTER 198

An act to amend Sections 6276.46 and 13968 of, and to add Section 6254.17 to, the Government Code, and to amend Section 1202.4 of the Penal Code, relating to victims of crime.

[Approved by Governor July 21, 2000. Filed with
Secretary of State July 24, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1802, Chesbro. Victims of crime.

(1) Existing law exempts specified records from disclosure under the California Public Records Act, provides for the indemnification of victims of certain crimes for specified types of expenses from the Restitution Fund, and requires a court to require a criminal defendant to pay restitution, which is to be made to the Restitution Fund to the extent that the victim of the crime has received assistance from the State Board of Control.

This bill would exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act specified records relating to requests for assistance by, and compensation of, victims of crime. The bill would specify that consent to disclosure of an otherwise privileged communication does not waive specified evidentiary privileges if the disclosure is needed by the board to verify an application for indemnification. The bill would provide that assistance from the Restitution Fund as a result of the defendant's conduct is presumed to be a direct result of the defendant's crime and shall be included in the amount of restitution ordered by the court, except as specified. The bill would, in that connection, provide that certified copies of bills, together with a specified statement made under penalty of perjury by the custodian of the records, are sufficient to establish the amount of assistance provided by the Restitution Fund, thereby creating a state-mandated local program by expanding the conduct to which the crime of perjury would apply.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 6254.17 is added to the Government Code, to read:

6254.17. (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require disclosure of records of the State Board of Control that relate to a request for assistance under Article 1 (commencing with Section 13959) of Chapter 5 of Part 4 of Division 3 of Title 2.

(b) This section shall not apply to a disclosure of the following information, if no information is disclosed that connects the information to a specific victim, derivative victim, or applicant under Article 1 (commencing with Section 13959) of Chapter 5 of Part 4 of Division 3 of Title 2:

(1) The amount of money paid to a specific provider of services.

(2) Summary data concerning the types of crimes for which assistance is provided.

SEC. 2. Section 6276.46 of the Government Code is amended to read:

6276.46. Unclaimed property, Controller records of, disclosure, Section 1582, Code of Civil Procedure.

Unemployment compensation, disclosure of confidential information, Section 2111, Unemployment Insurance Code.

Unemployment compensation, information obtained in administration of code, Section 1094, Unemployment Insurance Code.

Unemployment compensation, purposes for which use of information may be authorized, Section 1095, Unemployment Insurance Code.

Unemployment fund contributions, publication of annual tax rate, Section 989, Unemployment Insurance Code.

Unsafe working condition, confidentiality of complainant, Section 6309, Labor Code.

Use fuel tax information, disclosure prohibited, Section 9255, Revenue and Taxation Code.

Utility systems development, confidential information, subdivision (e), Section 6254, Government Code.

Vehicle registration, financial responsibility verification study, confidentiality of information, Sections 4750.2 and 4750.4, Vehicle Code.

Vehicle accident reports, disclosure of, Sections 16005, 20012, and 20014, Vehicle Code and Section 27177, Streets and Highways Code.

Vehicular offense, record of, confidentiality five years after conviction, Section 1807.5, Vehicle Code.

Veterans Affairs, Department of, confidentiality of records of contract purchasers, Section 85, Military and Veterans Code.

Veterinarian or animal health technician, alcohol or dangerous drugs diversion and rehabilitation records, confidentiality of, Section 4871, Business and Professions Code.

Victim, statements at sentencing, Section 1191.15, Penal Code.

Victims' Legal Resource Center, confidentiality of information and records retained, Section 13897.2, Penal Code.

Victims of crimes compensation program, confidentiality of records, subdivision (d), Section 13968, Government Code.

Voter, registration by confidential affidavit, Section 2194, Elections Code.

Voter registration card, confidentiality of information contained in, Section 6254.4, Government Code.

Voting, secrecy, Section 1050, Evidence Code.

Wards and dependent children, inspection of juvenile court documents, Section 827, Welfare and Institutions Code.

SEC. 3. Section 13968 of the Government Code is amended to read:

13968. (a) The board may adopt all rules and regulations that are necessary to implement this article, in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3.

(b) It shall be the duty of every hospital licensed under the laws of this state to display prominently in its emergency room posters giving notification of the existence and general provisions of this chapter, and the existence and locations of local victim centers. The board, in cooperation with local victim centers, shall set standards for the location of a display and shall provide posters, application forms, and general information regarding the provisions of this chapter to each hospital and physician licensed to practice in the state.

(c) It shall be the duty of every local law enforcement agency to inform victims of crimes of the provisions of this chapter, of the existence of local victim centers, and in counties where no local victim center exists, to provide application forms to victims who desire to seek assistance pursuant to this article. The board shall provide application forms and all other documents that local law enforcement agencies and victim centers may require to comply with this section. The board, in cooperation with local victim centers shall set standards to be followed by local law enforcement agencies for this purpose and may require them to file with the board a description of the procedures adopted by each agency to comply.

(d) Notwithstanding Section 827 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or any other provision of law, every law enforcement and social service agency in the state shall provide to the board or to the designated local victim centers, upon request, a copy of a petition filed in a juvenile court proceeding, reports of the probation officer, any other document made available to the probation officer or to the judge, referee, or other hearing officer, a complete copy of the report regarding the incident and any supplemental reports involving the

crime, public offense, or incident giving rise to a claim, for the specific purpose of the submission of a claim or the determination of eligibility to submit a claim filed pursuant to this article. The board or designated local victim centers shall refuse to allow inspection of a document that personally identifies a minor by anyone other than the minor who is so identified, his or her custodial parent or guardian, the attorneys for those parties, and any other persons as may be designated by court order of the judge of the juvenile court. Any information received pursuant to this section shall be received in confidence for the limited purpose for which it was provided and shall not be further disseminated. A violation of this subdivision is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(e) The law enforcement agency supplying the information may, at its discretion, withhold the names of witnesses or informants from the board, if the release of such names would be detrimental to the parties or to an investigation currently in progress.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every state agency, upon receipt of a copy of a release signed in accordance with the Information Practices Act of 1977 by the applicant or other authorized representative, shall provide to the board or local victim center the information necessary to complete the verification of an application filed pursuant to this article.

(g) The Department of Justice shall furnish, upon application of the board, all information necessary to verify the eligibility of any applicant for benefits pursuant to Section 13960.2, to recover any restitution fine or order obligations that are owed to the Restitution Fund or to any victim of crime, or to evaluate the status of any criminal disposition.

(h) A privilege is not waived under Section 912 of the Evidence Code by an applicant consenting to disclosure of an otherwise privileged communication if that disclosure is deemed necessary by the board for verification of the application pursuant to Section 13961.

SEC. 4. Section 1202.4 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

1202.4. (a) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a victim of crime who incurs any economic loss as a result of the commission of a crime shall receive restitution directly from any defendant convicted of that crime.

(2) Upon a person being convicted of any crime in the State of California, the court shall order the defendant to pay a fine in the form of a penalty assessment in accordance with Section 1464.

(3) The court, in addition to any other penalty provided or imposed under the law, shall order the defendant to pay both of the following:

(A) A restitution fine in accordance with subdivision (b).

(B) Restitution to the victim or victims, if any, in accordance with subdivision (f), which shall be enforceable as if the order were a civil judgment.

(b) In every case where a person is convicted of a crime, the court shall impose a separate and additional restitution fine, unless it finds compelling and extraordinary reasons for not doing so, and states those reasons on the record.

(1) The restitution fine shall be set at the discretion of the court and commensurate with the seriousness of the offense, but shall not be less than two hundred dollars (\$200), and not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), if the person is convicted of a felony, and shall not be less than one hundred dollars (\$100), and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), if the person is convicted of a misdemeanor.

(2) In setting a felony restitution fine, the court may determine the amount of the fine as the product of two hundred dollars (\$200) multiplied by the number of years of imprisonment the defendant is ordered to serve, multiplied by the number of felony counts of which the defendant is convicted.

(c) The court shall impose the restitution fine unless it finds compelling and extraordinary reasons for not doing so, and states those reasons on the record. A defendant's inability to pay shall not be considered a compelling and extraordinary reason not to impose a restitution fine. Inability to pay may be considered only in increasing the amount of the restitution fine in excess of the two-hundred-dollar (\$200) or one-hundred-dollar (\$100) minimum.

(d) In setting the amount of the fine pursuant to subdivision (b) in excess of the two-hundred-dollar (\$200) or one-hundred-dollar (\$100) minimum, the court shall consider any relevant factors including, but not limited to, the defendant's inability to pay, the seriousness and gravity of the offense and the circumstances of its commission, any economic gain derived by the defendant as a result of the crime, the extent to which any other person suffered any losses as a result of the crime, and the number of victims involved in the crime. Those losses may include pecuniary losses to the victim or his or her dependents as well as intangible losses, such as psychological harm caused by the crime. Consideration of a defendant's inability to pay may include his or her future earning capacity. A defendant shall bear the burden of demonstrating his or her inability to pay. Express findings by the court as to the factors bearing on the amount of the fine shall not be required. A separate hearing for the fine shall not be required.

(e) The restitution fine shall not be subject to penalty assessments as provided in Section 1464, and shall be deposited in the Restitution Fund in the State Treasury.

(f) In every case in which a victim has suffered economic loss as a result of the defendant's conduct, the court shall require that the



defendant make restitution to the victim or victims in an amount established by court order, based on the amount of loss claimed by the victim or victims or any other showing to the court. If the amount of loss cannot be ascertained at the time of sentencing, the restitution order shall include a provision that the amount shall be determined at the direction of the court. The court shall order full restitution unless it finds compelling and extraordinary reasons for not doing so, and states them on the record.

(1) The defendant has the right to a hearing before a judge to dispute the determination of the amount of restitution. The court may modify the amount, on its own motion or on the motion of the district attorney, the victim or victims, or the defendant. If a motion is made for modification of a restitution order, the victim shall be notified of that motion at least 10 days prior to the proceeding held to decide the motion.

(2) Determination of the amount of restitution ordered pursuant to this subdivision shall not be affected by the indemnification or subrogation rights of any third party. Restitution ordered pursuant to this subdivision shall be ordered to be deposited to the Restitution Fund to the extent that the victim, as defined in subdivision (k), has received assistance from the Victims of Crime Program pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 13959) of Chapter 5 of Part 4 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(3) To the extent possible, the restitution order shall be prepared by the sentencing court, shall identify each victim and each loss to which it pertains, and shall be of a dollar amount that is sufficient to fully reimburse the victim or victims for every determined economic loss incurred as the result of the defendant's criminal conduct, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(A) Full or partial payment for the value of stolen or damaged property. The value of stolen or damaged property shall be the replacement cost of like property, or the actual cost of repairing the property when repair is possible.

(B) Medical expenses.

(C) Mental health counseling expenses.

(D) Wages or profits lost due to injury incurred by the victim, and if the victim is a minor, wages or profits lost by the minor's parent, parents, guardian, or guardians, while caring for the injured minor.

(E) Wages or profits lost by the victim, and if the victim is a minor, wages or profits lost by the minor's parent, parents, guardian, or guardians, due to time spent as a witness or in assisting the police or prosecution.

(F) Noneconomic losses, including, but not limited to, psychological harm, for felony violations of Section 288.

(G) Interest, at the rate of 10 percent per annum, that accrues as of the date of sentencing or loss, as determined by the court.

(H) Actual and reasonable attorney's fees and other costs of collection accrued by a private entity on behalf of the victim.

(I) Expenses incurred by an adult victim in relocating away from the defendant, including, but not limited to, deposits for utilities and telephone service, deposits for rental housing, temporary lodging and food expenses, clothing, and personal items. Expenses incurred pursuant to this section shall be verified by law enforcement to be necessary for the personal safety of the victim or by a mental health treatment provider to be necessary for the emotional well-being of the victim.

(J) Expenses to install or increase residential security incurred related to a crime, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5, including, but not limited to, a home security device or system, or replacing or increasing the number of locks.

(K) Expenses to retrofit a residence or vehicle, or both, to make the residence accessible to or the vehicle operational by the victim, if the victim is permanently disabled, whether the disability is partial or total, as a direct result of the crime.

(4) (A) If, as a result of the defendant's conduct, the Restitution Fund has provided assistance to or on behalf of a victim or derivative victim pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 13959) of Chapter 5 of Part 4 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the amount of assistance provided shall be presumed to be a direct result of the defendant's criminal conduct and shall be included in the amount of the restitution ordered.

(B) The amount of assistance provided by the Restitution Fund shall be established by copies of bills submitted to the State Board of Control reflecting the amount paid by the board and whether the services for which payment was made were for medical or dental expenses, funeral or burial expenses, mental health counseling, wage or support losses, or rehabilitation. Certified copies of these bills provided by the State Board of Control and redacted to protect the privacy and safety of the victim or any legal privilege, together with a statement made under penalty of perjury by the custodian of records that those bills were submitted to and were paid by the State Board of Control, shall be sufficient to meet this requirement.

(C) If the defendant offers evidence to rebut the presumption established by this paragraph, the court may release additional information contained in the records of the State Board of Control to the defendant only after reviewing that information in camera and finding that the information is necessary for the defendant to dispute the amount of the restitution order.

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (6), in any case in which an order may be entered pursuant to this subdivision, the defendant shall prepare and file a disclosure identifying all assets, income, and liabilities in which the defendant held or controlled a present or future interest as of the date of the defendant's arrest for the crime



for which restitution may be ordered. This disclosure shall be available to the victim pursuant to Section 1214, and any use the court may make of the disclosure shall be subject to the restrictions of subdivision (g). The disclosure shall be signed by the defendant upon a form approved or adopted by the Judicial Council for the purpose of facilitating the disclosure. Any defendant who willfully states as true any material matter that he or she knows to be false on the disclosure required by this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor, unless this conduct is punishable as perjury or another provision of law provides for a greater penalty.

(6) A defendant who fails to file the financial disclosure required in paragraph (5), but who has filed a financial affidavit or financial information pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 987, shall be deemed to have waived the confidentiality of that affidavit or financial information as to a victim in whose favor the order of restitution is entered pursuant to subdivision (f). The affidavit or information shall serve in lieu of the financial disclosure required in paragraph (5), and paragraphs (7) to (10), inclusive, shall not apply.

(7) Except as provided in paragraph (6), the defendant shall file the disclosure with the clerk of the court no later than the date set for the defendant's sentencing, unless otherwise directed by the court. The disclosure may be inspected or copied as provided by subdivision (b), (c), or (d) of Section 1203.05.

(8) In its discretion, the court may relieve the defendant of the duty under paragraph (7) of filing with the clerk by requiring that the defendant's disclosure be submitted as an attachment to, and be available to, those authorized to receive the following:

(A) Any report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 1203 or subdivision (g) of Section 1203.

(B) Any stipulation submitted pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 1203.

(C) Any report by the probation officer, or any information submitted by the defendant applying for a conditional sentence pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 1203.

(9) The court may consider a defendant's unreasonable failure to make a complete disclosure pursuant to paragraph (5) as any of the following:

(A) A circumstance in aggravation of the crime in imposing a term under subdivision (b) of Section 1170.

(B) A factor indicating that the interests of justice would not be served by admitting the defendant to probation under Section 1203.

(C) A factor indicating that the interests of justice would not be served by conditionally sentencing the defendant under Section 1203.

(D) A factor indicating that the interests of justice would not be served by imposing less than the maximum fine and sentence fixed by law for the case.

(10) A defendant's failure or refusal to make the required disclosure pursuant to paragraph (5) shall not delay entry of an order of restitution or pronouncement of sentence. In appropriate cases, the court may do any of the following:

(A) Require the defendant to be examined by the district attorney pursuant to subdivision (h).

(B) If sentencing the defendant under Section 1170, provide that the victim shall receive a copy of the portion of the probation report filed pursuant to Section 1203.10 concerning the defendant's employment, occupation, finances, and liabilities.

(C) If sentencing the defendant under Section 1203, set a date and place for submission of the disclosure required by paragraph (5) as a condition of probation or suspended sentence.

(g) The court shall order full restitution unless it finds compelling and extraordinary reasons for not doing so, and states those reasons on the record. A defendant's inability to pay shall not be considered a compelling and extraordinary reason not to impose a restitution order, nor shall inability to pay be a consideration in determining the amount of a restitution order.

(h) The district attorney may request an order of examination pursuant to the procedures specified in Article 2 (commencing with Section 708.110) of Chapter 6 of Division 2 of Title 9 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, in order to determine the defendant's financial assets for purposes of collecting on the restitution order.

(i) A restitution order imposed pursuant to subdivision (f) shall be enforceable as if the order were a civil judgment.

(j) The making of a restitution order pursuant to subdivision (f) shall not affect the right of a victim to recovery from the Restitution Fund as otherwise provided by law, except to the extent that restitution is actually collected pursuant to the order. Restitution collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be credited to any other judgments for the same losses obtained against the defendant arising out of the crime for which the defendant was convicted.

(k) For purposes of this section, "victim" shall include all of the following:

(1) The immediate surviving family of the actual victim.

(2) Any corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity when that entity is a direct victim of a crime.

(3) "Derivative victims" as defined in Section 13960 of the Government Code.

(l) At its discretion, the board of supervisors of any county may impose a fee to cover the actual administrative cost of collecting the

restitution fine, not to exceed 10 percent of the amount ordered to be paid, to be added to the restitution fine and included in the order of the court, the proceeds of which shall be deposited in the general fund of the county.

(m) In every case in which the defendant is granted probation, the court shall make the payment of restitution fines and orders imposed pursuant to this section a condition of probation. Any portion of a restitution order that remains unsatisfied after a defendant is no longer on probation shall continue to be enforceable by a victim pursuant to Section 1214 until the obligation is satisfied.

(n) If the court finds and states on the record compelling and extraordinary reasons why a restitution fine or full restitution order should not be required, the court shall order, as a condition of probation, that the defendant perform specified community service, unless it finds and states on the record compelling and extraordinary reasons not to require community service in addition to the finding that restitution should not be required. Upon revocation of probation, the court shall impose restitution pursuant to this section.

(o) The provisions of Section 13966.01 of the Government Code shall apply to restitution imposed pursuant to this section.

(p) (1) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2000, except when all of the following apply:

(A) A majority of judges of a court apply to the Judicial Council for an extension.

(B) The judicial application described in paragraph (1) documents the need for time to adjust restitution procedures and practices, as well as to facilitate judicial education and training in direct restitution to victims under subdivision (f).

(C) The Judicial Council grants the extension upon finding good cause.

(2) Upon the grant of an extension pursuant to the application of a court under this subdivision, the provisions of former Section 1214 shall continue to apply with respect to that court. The extension may be for any period of time set by the Judicial Council, but shall not exceed January 1, 2002, in any case.

SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.